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OBEY RE-INTRODUCES PLAN TO TAKE PRIVATE MONEY OUT OF POLITICS

Legislation Is Intended To Break Nexus Of Money In Politics
& Restore Public Faith In Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Recognizing that more than lobbying rule changes are necessary to restore the public's faith in Congress, Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) and eight of his Democratic colleagues announced that they have re-introduced legislation that would radically overhaul the congressional campaign finance system; eliminating all private money from general elections for the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We have reached a point where private money is swamping the political process and destroying public confidence in our government. The problem with politics is more fundamental than meals or trips with lobbyists," said Obey. "To restore the public's faith in the system, lobby reform is necessary, but the fundamental problem is to take all private money out of general elections. That is what our plan, the Let the People Decide Clean Campaign Act, is intended to do."

The Let the People Decide Clean Campaign Act does not attempt to fine-tune the existing congressional campaign finance system or tweak the edges, rather it makes fundamental, wholesale changes to the way we raise funds for candidates, regulate outside groups and the role of political parties.

- It contains a finding that America's faith in our election system has been fundamentally corrupted by big money and cynical expenditures by outside interest groups.
- It establishes a system of voluntary contributions to provide public financing of campaigns for House candidates in general elections based on the returns from the previous

two elections.

- It provides the vast majority of challengers with more funds to mount their campaign than the current system.
- It empowers voters with the knowledge that their vote affects the outcome of the current election and also affects the amount distributed to nominees in future elections.
- It bans all independent expenditures so that only the candidate is responsible for his/her message.
- It provides for expedited consideration of a constitutional amendment allowing these changes if the Supreme Court rejects the plan.
- It provides a process by which third party candidates can also participate in the system.

Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Bob Filner (D-CA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Steve Israel (D-NY), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Pete Stark (D-CA), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Henry Waxman (D-CA), joined with Obey as original co-sponsors of the Act.

“Political campaigns aren’t going to be financed through immaculate conception,” concluded Obey. “If the public doesn’t want special interests to dominate political campaign contributions then the only logical alternative is for them to take politics back from the special interests by supporting this kind of voluntary public financing. There is no free lunch.”

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* * [SEE A SUMMARY OF THE ACT](#) * *

